1886MNRAS..46..202.

the single front lens for the higher powers, in place of the older triple combination.

He spent much time in experiments for the reduction of the secondary spectrum, and succeeded in making object glasses practically free from outstanding colour; but these were unfortunately not permanent, owing to the fact that only fluids had the required dispersion, and in consequence of their contraction and expansion it was found to be quite impossible to retain them between the lenses for any great length of time.

He was very successful in the construction of both telescope and microscope objectives, and made a great improvement in the former by the substitution of light in place of the dense flint glass as usually used, thus lessening the secondary spectrum in a marked degree.

Owing to ill health he had been unable to take an active part in the business for some years.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on January 10, 1862.

Colonel William Yolland, C.B., F.R.S., was born on March 17, 1810, at Merrifield, Plympton St. Mary's, Devon. In early life he was admitted into the Royal Academy at Woolwich, where he obtained his commission in the Royal Engineers in 1828.

He rose by regular promotion until he became lieutenant-colonel in 1855, and a brevet colonel in the army in 1858. Colonel Yolland early developed a faculty for mathematical and geodesical studies, which he cultivated with signal success. His abilities found scope in Canada shortly after his admission to the Royal Engineers, and he was subsequently employed at the Ordnance Survey at the Tower of London, at Southampton, Dublin, and Enniskillen. During this interval he superintended the publication of astronomical observations made with Ramsden's zenith sector, and afterwards with Airy's, the latter being for the purpose of determining the latitudes of various trigonometrical stations in Great Britain and Ireland. He also compiled an account of the measurement of the Loch Foyle base, which was made during the years 1827–29. The article on Geodesy which forms part of the mathematical text-book used at the Royal Military College was written by Colonel Yolland at the express request of Colonel Harness, who was at that time Assistant Inspector-General of Fortifications. In 1854 Colonel Yolland was appointed one of the Inspectors of Railways under the Board of Trade, in which capacity his name has been often before the public.

While in the service of the Board of Trade he was appointed superintending engineer of the Ramsgate Harbour Works, but this appointment he resigned, after holding it only a few months.

In 1856 his wide experience and sound judgment led to his

Downloaded from http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/ by guest on March 25, 2016

© Royal Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System

1886MNRAS..46..202.

being selected as the engineer member of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for War to consider the best mode of reorganising the system of training officers of the scientific corps, with the special intention of abolishing patronage and opening the commissions in those corps to competition. The Commissioners, the other two of whom were Colonel W. J. Smith, R.A., and the Rev. W. C. Lake, visited France, Prussia, Austria, and Sardinia; and after studying the methods of appointment in use in those countries, drew up a report, which was printed by order of the House of Commons.

On the retirement of Sir Henry Tyler from the office of Chief Inspector of Railways under the Board of Trade, he became the senior inspector, and held this appointment at the date of his death, having thus been thirty-one years in the service of the Board of Trade.

He received the distinction of C.B. (Civil) in 1881. Colonel Yolland died at Baddesley Vicarage, Atherstone, Warwickshire, where he was making a temporary stay with his family, on September 4, 1885.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on February 14, 1840.

Downloaded from http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/ by guest on March 25, 2016

© Royal Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System